

May 2013



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*Highlight of the Month—Asia-Pacific American Heritage Month*

Asian Pacific Americans represent a growing and influential community within U.S. society in youth activism, government, literature, entertainment, civil society, and the arts.

This year marks the 21st anniversary of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.



**Resources**

**Library of Congress**

[Asian Pacific American Heritage Month](#)

**Smithsonian**

[Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at the Smithsonian](#)

**Smithsonian**

[The May Project](#)

**Videos**

[Asian Americans: Finding Our Place](#)

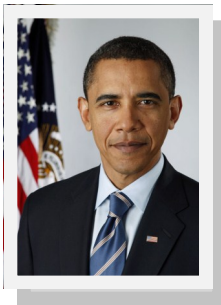
[President Obama on Asian-Pacific American Heritage](#)

[American Born Chinese](#)

[Asian American Identity - Smithsonian Portraits of Encounter](#)

[Vietnamese American National Gala Video](#)

[Being Indian American: Suchin Adhlakha, Preserving for the Future](#)



## *From the President Proclamation on Asian American, Pacific Islander Heritage Month*

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
A PROCLAMATION

Each May, our Nation comes together to recount the ways Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) helped forge our country. We remember a time 170 years ago, when Japanese immigrants first set foot on American shores and opened a path for millions more. We remember 1869, when Chinese workers laid the final ties of the transcontinental railroad after years of back-breaking labor. And we remember Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have made our country bigger and brighter again and again, from Native Hawaiians to the generations of striving immigrants who shaped our history -- reaching and sweating and scraping to give their children something more. Their story is the American story, and this month, we honor them all.

For many in the AAPI community, that story is one also

marked by lasting inequality and bitter wrongs. Immigrants seeking a better life were often excluded, subject to quotas, or denied citizenship because of their race. Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders endured decades of persecution and broken promises. Japanese Americans suffered profoundly under internment during World War II, even as their loved ones fought bravely abroad. And in the last decade, South Asian Americans -- particularly those who are Muslim, Hindu, or Sikh -- have too often faced senseless violence and suspicion due only to the color of their skin or the tenets of their faith.

This year, we recognize the 25th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and the 70th anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act's repeal -- milestones that helped mend deep wounds of systemic discrimination. And with irrepressible determination and optimism, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have prevailed over adversity and risen to the top of their fields -- from medicine to business to the

bench. But even now, too many hardworking AAPI families face disparities in health care, education, and employment that keep them from getting ahead.

My Administration remains committed to addressing those disparities. Through the White House Initiative on AAPIs, we are working to ensure equal access to Federal programs that meet the diverse needs of AAPI communities. We are standing up for civil rights, economic opportunity, and better outcomes in health and education. We are fighting for commonsense immigration reform so America can continue to be a magnet for the best and brightest from all around the world, including Asia and the Pacific.

Meeting those challenges will not be easy. But the history of the AAPI community shows us how with hope and resolve, we can overcome the problems we face. We can reaffirm our legacy as a Nation where all things are possible for all people. So this month, as we recognize Asian

Americans and Pacific Islanders who are fulfilling that promise in every corner of our country, let us recommit to giving our children and grandchildren the same opportunity in the years ahead.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2013 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to visit [www.WhiteHouse.gov/AAPI](http://www.WhiteHouse.gov/AAPI) and [www.AsianPacificHeritage.gov](http://www.AsianPacificHeritage.gov) to learn more about the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

BARACK OBAMA

## *E-Publication: Regional Cuisine Reflects National Diversity*

The United States is a nation of immigrants; only Native Americans can claim North America as their ancestral home.

Other Americans or their ancestors came to this land, creating what many call “the melting pot.”

These immigrants brought with them the traditions of their homeland — including their agricultural practices, food preferences and cooking methods.

America’s ethnic melting pot has given rise to a cuisine equally varied and diverse.

Most of the foods categorized as American are traditional dishes from other lands that have gained popularity across the country.

[Download pamphlet](#)



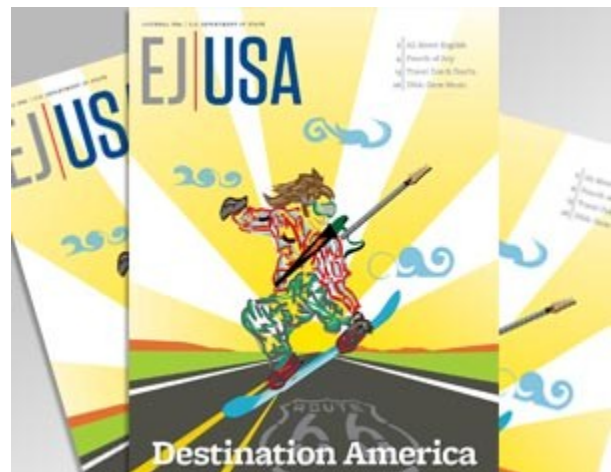
## *EJ|USA: Destination America*

July 2013 - The relaunch of EJ|USA brings a fresh look and coverage of new topics to readers.

This issue explores an America most people don't find until their se-

cond, or even third, visits. Plus sections on Leisure, Communities, Peace & Security, Education, Arts, Science, Marketplace and a Last Word.

[Read more](#)



## *In Brief: Students Find Way to Shorten Landfill Life of Plastics*

Scientists estimate that the millions of tons of plastics buried in landfills can take hundreds of years to decompose. Some student entrepreneurs from Brigham Young University in Utah have developed

and patented an eco-friendly product that, when sprayed on plastics as they enter landfills, will make the plastics biodegrade in three years or less.

The students' company — Inviroment LLC — recently

won \$100,000 in the National Clean Energy Business Plan Competition, a grant program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy to inspire the next generation of entrepre-

neurs and scientists to tackle some of the greatest challenges facing the United States.

[Read more](#)

By Jane Morse | Staff Writer  
01 May 2013

## *Special Article*

### *Press Freedom a Human Right, Moral Necessity, U.S. Officials Say*

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, some 250 journalists are now in prisons worldwide and nearly 600 have been murdered since 1992.

Washington — Media freedom is a human right and the moral equivalent of oxygen, says Tara Sonenshine, under secretary of state for public diplomacy and public affairs.

Speaking at an April 25 event sponsored by the independent advocacy group Human Rights First at the State Department's Foreign Press Center, Sonenshine said press freedom "is how any free, healthy, vibrant and functioning society breathes, and it is essential to building civil societies. Without it, aspirations choke, economies suffocate and countries are unable to grow."

Sonenshine's remarks came as a prelude to the 20th-anniversary World Press Freedom Day on May 3. Proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, World Press Freedom Day is meant to inform citizens of violations of press freedoms and to remind governments of the need to respect their commitment to press freedom.

Although Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was

adopted by the United Nations in 1948, declares that "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression" and "to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media," media freedom is severely circumscribed in many parts of the world and journalists continue to be threatened or killed by repressive governments.

"According to the Committee to Protect Journalists," Sonenshine said, "nearly 600 journalists have been murdered with impunity since 1992." Currently some 250 journalists are imprisoned worldwide, and in 2012, 10 journalists were killed, she said.

"Some governments are too weak or unwilling to protect journalists and media outlets," Sonenshine said. "Many others exploit or create criminal libel or defamation or blasphemy laws in their favor. They misuse terrorism laws to prosecute and imprison journalists. They pressure media outlets to shut down by causing crippling financial damage. They buy or nationalize media outlets to suppress different viewpoints. They filter or shut down access to the Internet. They detain and harass — and worse."

News organizations, civil

society and policy research institutions, political leaders, scholars and citizens of every faith and ethnicity must call for accountability and demand that governments enforce human rights that protect journalists, Sonenshine said.

For its part, the U.S. government funds programs to provide media organizations and journalists with the resources they need to produce high-quality stories without fear of retribution. According to Uzra Zeya, acting assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor, the State Department, since 2007, has provided almost \$1.1 million in assistance for investigative journalists, bloggers and other media professionals who are under threat.

"Our Internet freedom programs," Zeya said, "support technologies that enable citizen journalists and activists to report on human rights developments and to protect themselves from threats online and offline. These tools give bloggers access to the Web when they would otherwise be shut off from the rest of the world."

Speaking with Sonenshine at the Foreign Press Center, Zeya said the U.S. government works actively to engage governments publicly and privately on media free-

dom. "This includes," she said, "addressing specific cases of imprisoned journalists, new legislation that restricts certain types of expression, and existing legal frameworks that sanction the locking up of journalists in the name of security."

"We remind governments that allowing free expression increases, rather than diminishes, their chances of long-term stability and prosperity," Zeya said.

The United States, Zeya said, works in multilateral forums to hold governments accountable to their human rights obligations and supports U.N. resolutions on freedom of expression, such as the 2012 Human Rights Council resolution on the Safety of Journalists and the 2012 resolution on Internet Freedom.

Sonenshine added that to focus world attention on the problem of media repression, the State Department is highlighting on its Web pages for human rights individual cases for a two-week period leading up to World Press Freedom Day.

Learn more at [Free the Press: The Shrinking Space for Media Worldwide](#) at the State Department's website

[HumanRights.gov](#).

## *E-DOCS ALERT*

### **Turning Ideas into Dollars: Four Revenue Success Stories. Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. Mark Jurkowitz and Amy Mitchell. February 11, 2013.**

In America's embattled newspaper industry, some business innovations are showing clear signs of success, according to the report. While many of these are occurring on the digital side, some papers are generating new print revenue-through circulation gains, niche products and even sales reorganization. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.journalism.org/sites/journalism.org/files/NEWSPAPERREVENUEIDEAS.pdf> [PDF format, 35 pages, 921.71 KB].

### **Investigative Reporting in Emerging Democracies: Models, Challenges, and Lessons Learned. Center for International Media Assistance. Drew Sullivan. January 14, 2013.**

In the past few years, there has been a renewed and perhaps greater emphasis in investigative reporting by the development world and donors. This stems from both the irresistible lure of supporting courageous investigative media that can oust a prime minister or drive out corruption and the pragmatic work of trying to find cost-effective ways to make real, sustainable improvements. The study examines the practices used by media development implementers and donors, both governmental and private, to spur investigative reporting in those parts of the world where they work. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://cima.ned.org/sites/default/files/Drew%20Sullivan%20final%20v1.pdf> [PDF format, 38 pages, 654.36 KB]

### **Global Investigative Journalism: Strategies for Support. Center for International Media Assistance. David E. Kaplan. January 14, 2013.**

Fueled by globalization, international aid, and the efforts of journalism groups, the worldwide practice of investigative reporting has grown dramatically since the fall of communism began in 1989. Given the field's rapid growth, CIMA updated and expanded its research to understand the nature and scope of investigative journalism as a facet of media development. The study looks at key drivers and actors and suggests ways to best support and professionalize the practice in developing and transitioning countries. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://cima.ned.org/sites/default/files/CIMA-Investigative%20Journalism%20-%20Dave%20Kaplan.pdf> [PDF format, 64 pages, 1.32 MB].

### **Why Certain Trade Agreements Are Approved as Congressional-Executive Agreements Rather Than Treaties. Congressional Research Services, Library of Congress. Jane M. Smith et al. April 15, 2013.**

U.S. trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), World Trade Organization agreements, and bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) have been approved by majority vote of each house rather than by two-thirds vote of the Senate--that is, they have been treated as congressional-executive agreements rather than as treaties. The congressional-executive agreement has been the vehi-



cle for implementing Congress's long-standing policy of seeking trade benefits for the United States through reciprocal trade negotiations. In a succession of statutes, Congress has authorized the President to negotiate and enter into tariff and nontariff barrier (NTB) agreements for limited periods, while permitting NTB and free trade agreements negotiated under this authority to enter into force for the United States only if they are approved by both houses in a bill enacted into public law and other statutory conditions are met; implementing bills are also accorded expedited consideration under the scheme. This negotiating authority and expedited procedures are commonly known as Trade Promotion Authority (TPA).

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/97-896.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages, 223.53 KB].

**Carbon Market Crossroads: New Ideas for Harnessing Global Markets to Confront Climate Change. Center for American Progress. Nigel Purvis et al. April 29, 2013.**

According to the authors, global carbon markets could potentially deliver outsized environmental and economic benefits in the coming years. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/CarbonMarketCrossroads-3.pdf> [PDF format, 44 pages, 6.87 MB].

**International Climate Change Financing: The Green Climate Fund (GCF). Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Richard K. Lattanzio. April 16, 2013.**

Over the past several decades, the United States has delivered financial and technical assistance for climate change activities in the developing world through a variety of bilateral and multilateral programs. The United States and other industrialized countries committed to such assistance through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, Treaty Number: 102-38, 1992), the Copenhagen Accord (2009), and the UNFCCC Cancun Agreements (2010), wherein the higher-income countries pledged jointly up to \$30 billion of "fast start" climate financing for lower-income countries for the period 2010-2012, and a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020. The Cancun Agreements also proposed that the pledged funds are to be new, additional to previous flows, adequate, predictable, and sustained, and are to come from a wide variety of sources, both public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including alternative sources of finance.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41889.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages, 297.08 KB].

**Parents, Children, Libraries, and Reading. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Carolyn Miller et al. May 1, 2013.**

The vast majority of parents of minor children, children younger than 18, feel libraries are very important for their children. That attachment carries over into parents' own higher-than-average use of a wide range of library services. The ties between parents and libraries start with the importance parents attach to the role of reading in their children's lives. Half of parents of children under age 12 (50%) read to their child every day and an additional 26% do so a few times a week. Those with children under age 6 are especially keen on daily reading with their child: 58% of these parents read with their child every day and another 26% read multiple times a week with their children. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

[http://libraries.pewinternet.org/files/legacy-pdf/PIP\\_Library\\_Services\\_Parents\\_PDF.pdf](http://libraries.pewinternet.org/files/legacy-pdf/PIP_Library_Services_Parents_PDF.pdf)

## Events for the Month

### Law Day—May 1

America's legal system is central to protecting the constitutional principles on which our Nation was founded.

[External Site: American Bar Association](#)

### World Press Freedom Day - May 3

Every year, May 3rd is a date which celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom; to evaluate press freedom around the world, to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

[External Site: UN World Press Freedom Day](#)

### Cinco de Mayo –May 5

The holiday of Cinco De Mayo, May 5, commemorates the 1862 Mexican victory over the French army at The Battle Of Puebla.

### World Red and Cross Red Crescent Day—May 8

Celebrated each year since 1948, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day falls on the birthday of Henry Dunant of Switzerland, the founder of the Red Cross.

[External Site: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies](#)  
[External Site: World Red Cross Day](#)

### Global Diaspora Forum - May 13-14

Under the theme of "where ideas meet action" the 2013 Global Diaspora Forum provides the platform to discover inspiring stories from prominent American diasporans, demonstrate initiatives in international development and diplomacy by diaspora communities, and showcase methods of cultural bridge-building to encourage young diasporans to connect with their countries of heritage.

[External Site: International diaspora Engagement Alliance](#)  
[State: Global Diaspora Forum](#)

### International Day of Families—May 15

The International Day of Families reflects

the importance the international community attaches to families as basic units of society, as well as its concern regarding their situation around the world.

[External Site: UN International Day of Families](#)

### International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia—May 17

The International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO) is celebrated every May 17. It is coordinated by the Paris based "IDAHO Committee" founded and presided by French academics, Louis-Georges Tin.

### Memorial Day—May 27

Celebrated on the fourth Monday of May, this holiday commemorates American men and women who died in military service for their country. Although it originated in the aftermath of the Civil War, it has become a day on which the fallen soldiers of all wars are remembered in special programs held in cemeteries, churches, and other public meeting places. All U.S. Government offices will be closed.

## Harper Lee Center Monthly Movie

### American Corner Event

*In celebration of Memorial Day, the Harper Lee Center is pleased to present the biography of*

### General George C. Marshall: Soldier and Statesman

**Tuesday May 21 and Thursday May 23 at 15:00 hrs**

George C. Marshall is the only career soldier ever to win the Nobel Peace Prize. His military genius helped lead the Allied countries to victory in World War II, and his far-flung vision for helping nations get back on their feet after the war helped engineer the peace that followed.

**Seats are limited!**

**Please sign up for one of the sessions at**

**[harperleecenter@gmail.com](mailto:harperleecenter@gmail.com) or**

**670-6733/670 4897.**

### Harper Lee Center

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